

THE

CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE MOST REV. THE METROPOLITAN

AND

THE REV. THE RECTOR OF THE PARISH OF MONTREAL.



Montreal :

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1874.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

BISHOP'S COURT, April 27th, 1874.

MY DEAR BALDWIN,

You will not I think be surprised when I tell you that my connection with the Cathedral is becoming more and more embarrassing, and until some fresh arrangement is made I feel that I cannot attend the service with any degree of comfort.

I allude to the entire ignoring of my position in what I have always wished to consider as the Cathedral Church of my Diocese.

There is some idea of bringing the matter before the Synod; but before encouraging such a step I feel that it will be better to call our Chapter together, when I could speak more freely and amicably of the grounds of my complaint.

I propose therefore to call a meeting in the Chapter House, on Wednesday, May the 20th. I name that day, as I think it will be more convenient than any other.

Yours very faithfully,

A. MONTREAL.

MAY 2nd, 1874.

MY DEAR LORD,

I received on Thursday evening your letter of the 27th, and most sincerely regret that your Lordship should see any cause in the present management of the Cathedral to interfere with your pleasure in attending, or to lead you to withdraw your friendly sympathies.

Before calling the meeting of the Chapter to which you allude, I would take it as a kindness if your Lordship would freely state in writing that which you consider to be a reasonable ground of complaint, in order that, if possible, a speedy and amicable solution of the difficulty may be arrived at.

With all respect,
Your obedient servant,

MAURICE S. BALDWIN.

THE MOST REV.

THE METROPOLITAN.

BISHOP'S COURT, May 2nd, 1874.

MY DEAR BALDWIN,

However unwilling I might be to enter into particulars on paper, your request that I should do so is so reasonable that I cannot refuse it, and I am sure you will prefer that I should frankly tell you what my grievances are respecting the Cathedral.

First, however, let me say that there are many *little* things which have from time to time annoyed me, as indicative of a wish to exalt the Parochial character of the Church, at the expense of its Cathedral character, and which I cannot mention in writing.

But the main points which I complain of are the following:—

1. That as Bishop of the Diocese I do not enjoy the right of preaching in my own Cathedral, or of introducing a preacher when I desire to do so; but I am forced to make the proposal subject to a refusal.

The inconvenience of this I specially felt two months ago, when, after having preached a sermon on Public Worship

which I proposed to continue on a subsequent Sunday, you threw an obstacle in the way (intentionally or unintentionally) which made me resolve never again to subject myself to a similar objection. I feel that in my own Cathedral this should not have occurred.

2. That inasmuch as the Cathedral is my proper church, and I must needs be specially interested in all its ministrations, there has been little or no consideration of my wishes either as to the mode of conducting the services, or as to the introduction of fresh members of the clerical staff. During the late Dean's incumbency it was otherwise in both these respects.

3. That my position in the Chancel has, especially of late, been extremely distasteful, owing to the irreverent conduct of certain of the choir, which must be very disturbing to any one who wishes to take part in the service. Of this I have more than once complained to you, but without the least effect.

4. That I have on several occasions made suggestions for the improvement of the Cathedral worship, but these have been disregarded, and no steps taken to bring them before the proper authorities; whereas it would have been but an act of courtesy to have done so.

5. That the position of the Dean and Canons has of late been scarcely recognized, their stalls having been virtually obliterated by the erection of new seats for the Rector and his assistants in a prominent, but totally distinct part of the church, and the capitular stalls having been gradually absorbed by the choir.

6. That for many months past no pains have been taken by the Cathedral clergy for the decent celebration of Divine Service on week days, as was always the case previous to your incumbency, and according to the prevailing custom in all Cathedrals.

These are some of my main complaints, which at your request I have put upon paper; but there are many things which have combined painfully to convince me that the

feeling which now prevails with those who have the management of the Church is to build it up in its Rectorial capacity, but gradually to divert it of its original Cathedral character, ignoring as much as possible the presence and authority of the Bishop.

I send you my grievances in the same spirit as that in which you asked for them.

Yours very faithfully,

A. MONTREAL.

The claims of the Bishop are as follows :—

1. That, in accordance with the Queen's Patent, the Parish Church, called Christ Church, shall always be recognized as "the Cathedral Church of the said Bishop of Montreal."

2. That the Bishop's right either himself to preach in the Cathedral, or occasionally to introduce a stranger, if he shall desire it, on giving due notice to the Rector, be hereby admitted.

3. That the ordering of the Services in the Cathedral, and the appointment of the clergy thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the Bishop.

4. That, of the Stalls hitherto assigned to the Dean and Canons, a sufficient number shall be appropriated for their exclusive use, and shall be kept distinct from those used by the Choir.

5. That due provision shall be made for Daily Service in the Cathedral, during at least seven months of the year, according to the custom prevailing heretofore in this Church, as well as in Cathedrals generally.

In order to bring matters to an amicable issue, the Bishop has drawn up the above claims, which he feels to be the minimum of what he may fairly require, and to which he conceives that the Rector (having the dignity and well being of the Cathedral at heart, as well as himself) should be willing to assent.

The Bishop desires further to state his decided opinion,

that the present location of the Rector, and his assistants, in a block of stalls, at a distance from the Choir, from the Capitular Stalls, and from the Episcopal Throne, is very objectionable, as tending to create a distinction between the Parochial and Cathedral Clergy, and effectually separating the Choir from the main body of worshippers.

BISHOP'S COURT, May 11, 1874.

MY DEAR BALDWIN,

As I leave for Bedford this afternoon, only returning here to-morrow evening for one night, I must remind you that I have received no answer to my last letter. I am anxious to receive your reply, as I shall be guided by it as to whether it will be desirable to send out notices for a Chapter meeting on the 20th. As my demands were as moderate as I could make them in justice to myself, I hoped that you would have felt desirous at once to concur in my proposals.

Yours very faithfully,

A. MONTREAL,

MONTREAL, May 12th, 1874.

MY DEAR LORD,

Finding my answer to your last communication may be delayed a few days further, owing to my anxiety to give it all due consideration, I write in the meantime to explain that which, I grieve to say, has caused your Lordship trouble. You refer to a sermon which you proposed to preach, and in the way of which, you say, I intentionally, or unintentionally, threw an obstacle.

Now, my Lord, I can only say I acted unintentionally in

the matter; and the furthest idea from my mind was that of either opposing or slighting you. Seeing, however, by your Lordship's letter that I really did wound you, I offer you my most sincere and humble apology, as I have no other wish than to act with all due courtesy and respect.

Your obdt. servant,

MAURICE S. BALDWIN.

MY DEAR BALDWIN,

I willingly accept your explanation about the sermon, and believe that you did not *intentionally* prevent my preaching it.

As some of our Canons live at a distance, and will require a few days' notice in the event of a meeting on the 20th, I hope that you will let me hear from you at Lachine on Saturday.

Yours faithfully,

A. MONTREAL.

Bishop's Court, May 13, 1874.

MONTREAL, May 14th, 1874.

MY DEAR LORD,

In answer to a communication received from your Lordship on Friday the 8th of May, through the Very Reverend the Dean, I beg to submit the following reply: humbly hoping your Lordship will admit the justice of my several conclusions.

As the subjects brought forward by your Lordship are of the gravest importance, I shall consider them seriatim.

Claim No. 1.—"That in accordance with the Queen's Patent, the Parish Church, called Christ Church, shall be always recognized as the Cathedral Church of the said Bishop of Montreal."

In reply to this I may state that not having seen the Queen's Patent, I cannot affirm more than that I am willing to recognize the legal rights of the Bishop of Montreal in all matters.

Claim No. 2.—“ That the Bishop's right, either himself to preach in the Cathedral, or occasionally to introduce a stranger, if he should desire, on giving due notice to the Rector, be hereby admitted.”

I cannot admit these claims, as they interfere with the rights of the Rector of the Parish of Montreal under the Patent. In order, however, to avoid all mistakes in the future, I promise, as an act of courtesy, to furnish your Lordship, on the first of every month, with a blank form of the services to be held in the Cathedral throughout that period, on which your Lordship may write down when it will be your pleasure to preach, which appointments shall be loyally observed.

With regard to strangers, while I shall ever be desirous to meet your Lordship's wishes, occasions might arise when I would be compelled to assert my right of objection.

Claim No. 3.—“ That the ordering of the services in the Cathedral, and the appointment of the Clergy thereof, shall be subject to the approval of the Bishop.”

As this claim is wholly at variance with the liberty granted to the Rector by the Patent, it is inadmissible.

Claim No. 4.—“ That of the Stalls hitherto assigned to the Dean and Canons, a sufficient number shall be appropriated for their exclusive use, and shall be kept distinct from those used by the choir.”

On all occasions when the Cathedral Chapter may be expected at Divine Service, due provision will be made in the Stalls for their accommodation.

Claim No. 5.—“ That due provision shall be made for daily Service in the Cathedral, during at least seven months of the year, according to the custom prevailing heretofore in the Church, as well as in Cathedrals generally.”

It is my wish and intention to hold daily Service in the Cathedral as heretofore.

Note A.—“ The Bishop desires further to state his decided opinion that the present location of the Rector and his assistants, in a block of Stalls at a distance from the Choir, from the Cap i

tular Stalls, and from the Episcopal Throne, is very objectionable, as tending to create a distinction between the Cathedral and the Parochial Clergy, and effectually separating the Choir from the main body of the worshippers."

The Seats now used by the Rector and his assistants were erected by the Church authorities for the purpose of giving more suitable accommodation, and without any intention of creating a distinction between the Cathedral and Parochial Clergy.

I would also respectfully disclaim all idea whatever of building up the Church in its Rectorial capacity at the expense of its Cathedral character.

Note B.—"That I have on several occasions made suggestions for the improvement of the Cathedral worship, but these have been disregarded, and no steps taken to bring them before the proper authorities, whereas it would have been but an act of courtesy to have done so."

Of the suggestions made by your Lordship as to the improvement of the Cathedral worship, some could only be settled by myself; others needing the consent of the Church authorities, I found had already been investigated, but, owing to the fact that the approval of the proprietors of pews was necessary, were considered impracticable.

Your Lordship has been pleased to inform me of your intention to convene a meeting of the Dean and Chapter in the Chapter House of the Cathedral.

Now, my Lord, while I do not wish to exercise my right of objection to the use of the Cathedral building, your Lordship will readily perceive I cannot attend the meeting convened for the purposes above specified.

With all respect,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

MAURICE SCOLLARD BALDWIN,
Rector of the Parish of Montreal.

TO THE MOST REV. THE METROPOLITAN.

LACHINE, May 18th, 1874.

MY DEAR CANON BALDWIN,

It grieves me to say that your letter of May the 14th is anything but satisfactory to me. The spirit in which it is written only confirms me in the opinion, which I had already expressed, that your aim seems to be to "build up the Parochial, rather than the Cathedral character of your Church."

As regards the first point mentioned, namely the recognition of the Church as "the Cathedral Church of the Bishop," since you seem unwilling to accept the statement without having it verified, I herewith send you a printed copy of the patent, from which you will see that I copied it correctly.

As to my preaching in the Cathedral, I cannot consent to do so as a mere matter of *courteous permission*, though I am persuaded that the courtesy you promise I should always have received at your hands. Had you assented to my proposal, I need hardly say that, judging from the past; you might have felt very sure that I should never have unduly pressed my claim, either by desiring to preach oftener than I have hitherto done, or by not cordially consulting you as to your own wishes. During the late incumbency, although your predecessor urged me to claim the Pulpit whenever I felt so disposed, you yourself will bear testimony to the fact that I never availed myself of that privilege without first consulting you as to your feelings and convenience.

You have further declined to accord to me the privilege of offering the Cathedral Pulpit to a brother Bishop, or to any other stranger. This being the case, I feel that I cannot ask permission to do so with the contingency of being refused, an event which you yourself contemplate as possible.

In the ordering of the services, I desired some consenting voice; for it is surely an anomaly to regard the Church as "the Cathedral Church of the Bishop," and yet to make

him an entire cipher in this respect. And here again I think you know me well enough to repose a fuller confidence in me than your objection implies.

Also, as to the appointment of the Cathedral clergy, can it be right that the Bishop should not even be consulted since the choice of a fit or unfit person would so closely affect him, and since also, from his official position, he has a more intimate knowledge of the clergy than others.

I speak feelingly on this point, as I understand that you have recently engaged a clergyman to act as one of the permanent cathedral staff *without even mentioning his name to me*. In the present instance it so happens that I know nothing against his personal character, but rather the reverse. It might, however, have been otherwise.

With regard to the Dean and Canons, I must still insist upon their claims to have special stalls allotted to them, as was the case during my predecessor's time, so that they may occupy them whenever they are present at any service, instead of depending upon casual provision being made for them on special occasions. I presume that the present stalls were originally erected with that intent. You will bear in mind that I only asked that a certain number of these should be appropriated to them.

And now I must close this correspondence, which was entered upon because I felt myself sorely aggrieved, and because I hoped that you would meet me in a generous and fair spirit—the same spirit that I have (as I think you will acknowledge) ever shown towards you. I also conceived that you would have desired to make an equitable adjustment of the claims both of the Rectory and the Cathedral, and that you would have shown a little more anxiety to place your Bishop in a position becoming his office, instead of rendering him dependent on the courtesy of the Rector. I am very sorry that in these respects our correspondence has failed.

Yours very faithfully,

A. MONTREAL.

I regret that you decline to attend the meeting of the Chapter which I have called. I should not have pressed you to do so against your inclination, but I think you will see that you were hardly right in your refusal.